NOSTALGIA

Doors close on cinema as M&S opens new store in Cambridge

***MIKE PETTY** AND **JAMES MILNER** LOOK THROUGH THE **CAMBRIDGE NEWS** ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST*

The Victoria Cinema was to make way for a new M&S store

Victoria Cinema to make way for new M&S – 1988

LIGHTS went up for the last time at the Victoria Cinema as the final performance of its last show came to an end.

As the audience left after seeing 'Spaceballs' or 'Predator,' manager Richard Wright reflected on the cinema's long history.

Memories of MGM musicals, Saturday morning minors and all-night horror shows came flooding back.

Mick Wells, who has been the chief projectionist for 24 years, recalled the halcyon days when 'South Pacific' ran for two solid years and 'The Sound of Music' for three.

Now the building on Cambridge Market Hill will make way for a new Marks and Spencer store.

Town dines with gown at Queenborough feast – 1949

THE college of Corpus Christi will be the scene of an unusually interesting dinner – the Queenborough feast.

It will be the first of its kind and will link university and town in a very happy way.

When, in 1948, Lord Queenborough gave to the college an endowment for a feast, he expressed the hope that representatives of the corporation and of the citizens of Cambridge would be the principal guests in order that the ties between borough and college might thereby be recognised and strengthened.

The college owes its origin to two Cambridge guilds which consisted very largely of citizens of Cambridge.

Cottenham school fire – schoolchildren gleeful – 1936

COTTENHAM children gathered at the school gates, gazing at the remains of their school with unsuppressed glee.

The caretaker had been stoking up the fumes when he saw smoke coming from the senior boys' classroom. The floor collapsed and the contents of the room, including two pianos, were destroyed.

The school bed was rescued from the wreckage of the belfry. The portion destroyed was erected in 1860 and is owned by the British school trustees.

The undamaged part is owned by the county council and was built in 1875.

The house of Heffer makes further headway – 1930

FROM modest beginnings in Fitzroy Street, the history of the house of Heffer is one of continuous progress.

The printing works on Hills Road has been considerably enlarged.

Last year saw reconstruction of the Petty Cury bookshop which is now twice its original size, and this year sees the reconstruction of the Sidney Street stationery and art shop. It will be a shop worthy of its central position. The new premises will have five floors, the frontage will be in the Georgian style with pilasters, fascia and columns of grey polished granite and the upper part will be faced with red Flemish bricks with Weldon stone dressings to the windows.

A unique feature will be the picture gallery on the third flood with a barrel-shaped ceiling.

Former bus driver is missing lady's chauffeur – 1909

ALBERT Watts came to Cambridge as a shoeblack at Downing College where part of his duty was to clean undergraduates' bicycles.

One possessed a motor cycle and he became smitten with the motor fever, mastered the mechanism and was allowed to take a ride upon it.

When the first motor bus company was formed in Cambridge, he forsook the college and ultimately became a driver. He subsequently secured a position in a London garage and then became a private chauffeur.

Now his picture has appeared in an illustrated paper as the chauffeur who has attained notoriety in the missing lady mystery.

Inquest into death of fifth illegitimate child – 1907

AN inquest into the death of a male child of a single woman in a village near Linton heard she'd been attended by her mother, a midwife, who said that, after the child was born, it had moaned but did not cry – she did not slap it nor wash it.

It was the fifth illegitimate child her daughter had had. Three of them were still alive, one was an idiot who fell on the fire a month ago. Another had been born dead.

Dr W.M. Palmer said he'd found the child in a dirty cloth or flannel petticoat. If properly attended at birth, it would have stood a good chance of living.

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